Table of Contents

1. Chapter 1
2. Chapter 2
3. Chapter 3
4. Chapter 4
5. Chapter 5

Chapter 1

Dawnkit shivered against the cold wind, darkness being the only thing she could see in her life.

There was nothing beside her to keep her warm, just cold air. Just emptiness.

"I can't keep her, I can't let them know she's our kit." A frantic voice mewed.

A deeper voice answered the she-cat. "Then what can we do? We can't just leave her here, she will die!"

"Fine." The other cat replied. "But you'll be the one to bring her into the clan. Say... say a rouge gave you the kit to live in the clans."

The tom sighed. "Okay, I just still don't understand why you can't let the clan know that Dawnkit is ours."

"Because we will be punished!" She hissed. "Just do as I say, please my love."

That was the last thing Dawnkit could hear before she slowly drifted off to sleep.

"Dawnpaw! Dawnpaw!"

Dawnpaw raised her head proudly. She just became a medicine cat apprentice of RiverClan!

The first months of her life in the clan were hard. Since she wasn't clanborn, it was difficult for her to fit in.

But that one day when she was first brought to the clan, felt strange. She barely remembered anything about that day, just the two voices.

*I don't remember what they sounded like... but what if they were my real parents?*Dawnpaw thought. She shook her head. *That's in the past, I must focus on my training!*

Dawnpaw padded over to Silverwater, her eyes wide with excitement. "What will I be learning about first?"

Silverwater looked at her, seeming to have mixed emotions in her expression. To Dawnpaw, she looked very hurt but happy at the

same time.

"Come with me, we'll go over some simple herbs." Silverwater said, turning towards her den.

But before Dawnpaw could follow, Crowtail padded over with a smile on his face. "Sorry to be disrupting you two, but I just wanted to congratulate Dawnpaw."

"It's okay, Crowtail." Silverwater mewed, a slight purr to her voice.

Crowtail nodded. He looked back to Dawnpaw. "I'm so proud of you Dawnpaw, I know you're going to become a gifted medicine cat, just like Silverwater."

Dawnpaw nodded shyly. Crowtail hasn't talked to her ever. She was only told that he was the one who brought her into the clan.

But his voice sounds so familiar... Dawnpaw thought. *No, he can't be one of the cats behind the voices I heard that day... besides, I barely even remember what they said.*

"Dawnpaw, are you alright?" Silverwater's mew broke her thoughts, and Dawnpaw shook out her pelt.

"Yeah, sorry about that Silverwater!" Dawnpaw replied.

Silverwater smiled. "It's okay, now let's begin your training!"

Chapter 2

"Good job, Dawnpaw!" Silverwater touched noses with her apprentice, purring.

Dawnpaw had been training with Silverwater for two moons now, and she had just treated the RiverClan deputy's wounds.

"Blizzardstorm, don't be so reckless in a battle next time." His friend, Trouthook, purred. "You'll get yourself killed!"

Blizzardstorm growled, getting to his paws. "I know, but I do it for my clan!"

"ShadowClan has been threatening us for too long, we need to be the ones to strike first this time." Crowtail hissed.

Silverwater stepped beside him, resting her tail on his shoulder. "Crowtail has a point."

Blizzardstorm nodded. "Yes, I'll bring it up with Rainstar."

Dawnpaw shivered. Rainstar was very scary to her. She knew she shouldn't be so frightened by him, but something just seemed off about the leader. He was ruthless and would do anything for power. Even though he was on his last life, he's been on that life for many, many moons.

"No, you will stay here until I say so." Silverwater said. "You're wounds will open again if you not careful."

Blizzardstorm opened his mouth but Silverwater silenced him with a hiss.

"Crowtail can tell Rainstar about his plan on his own." Silverwater mewed. "So lay down, *now*."

Blizzardstorm closed his mouth, doing as the medicine cat said.

"I'll make sure the message gets to Rainstar." Trouthook told the deputy.

"No, Crowtail is fully capable of telling Rainstar this himself." Silverwater growled. "Why can't you just let him do it?"

Trouthook looked surprised that she was defending Crowtail so much, but his dipped his head. "Sorry, Silverwater."

Crowtail nodded his thanks to her before slipping out of the den.

Silverwater lifted her chin up. "Now leave, Trouthook."

Trouthook glanced at Blizzardstorm then padded out of the den. Dawnpaw felt awkward standing there in silence for so long, but then the deputy finally spoke.

"*Silverwater*," Blizzardstorm looked up at her, his eyes narrowed. "I was there that day, I know what you're hiding. And you just proved my point even more by defending him today."

Silverwater's eyes widened, then she turned to Dawnpaw. She seemed to be shocked and afraid. "Please leave the den for a moment, Blizzardstorm and I need to talk."

Dawnpaw looked at her mentor with worry. "Is everything okay?"

Silverwater held her breath, then answered. "Yes, just don't worry about it."

Dawnpaw searched Silverwater's gaze before heading out of the den, taking a breath of fresh air. She scanned the clearing.

Gravelclaw, the oldest warrior in the clan, was teaching his apprentice, Onepaw, some basic battle moves. Trouthook and his mate Blossomleaf were now sharing a piece of prey together, their tail twined together. Silverwater's sister, Hollyclaw, was talking with a group of warriors.

The clan seems so peaceful. Dawnpaw thought. *But whatever Blizzardstorm knows about Silverwater, it doesn't seem like it's good news for her.*

Suddenly, she turned around and saw Blizzardstorm limp out of the medicine cat's den.

"Why are you leaving?" Dawnpaw asked. "I thought Silverwater told you to stay?"

"She's changed her mind." Blizzardstorm said, making his way towards the leader's den.

Dawnpaw shrugged and walked back inside, only to see Silverwater crouched in the corner of the den hunched over, her claws unsheathed and her fur bristled. Dawnpaw looked around the den, her eyes going wide. Everything looked like a mess, like someone had a tantrum or something.

"S-Silverwater... is everything alright?" Dawnpaw asked slowly, stepping closer to the she-cat.

"No, Dawnpaw, it isn't." Silverwater replied harshly. "Blizzardstorm and I had a little argument, and I got a bit carried away."

"W-What about?" Dawnpaw pressed, making sure not to cross the line though.

"I'm sure you'll find out about it soon." Silverwater hissed. "That stupid warrior-code follower is going to tell his precious leader everything! Please forgive me, Dawnpaw!"

Dawnpaw stared at her, confused. "What are you talking about?"

Silverwater shook her head. "I can't say... I just can't-"

Rainstar's yowl interrupted her, and Silverwater's eyes went wide with horror. She looked at Dawnpaw, shaking her head. "Dawnpaw, I'm so sorry."

Chapter 3

"We are gathered here today because of something shocking I was just told."

Dawnpaw looked up at Rainstar, sitting next to Silverwater. Her mentor's head was low to the ground, and her fur was still bristled.

Rainstar's eyes blazed with fury. "I'm calling out two *traitors* in the clan! Two cats who have broken the medicine cat code and went behind our backs!"

Everyone turned to stare at Silverwater, and Dawnpaw looked at her with worry. Why did Rainstar have to do this to Silverwater?

"Silverwater had kits with a RiverClan warrior, is this true?" Rainstar glared at Silverwater, waiting for her answer.

Silverwater lifted her chin up to look at the leader with pure hatred. "Yes, yes it is Rainstar."

"Blizzardstorm was patrolling one night when he heard two cats arguing and decided to see what it was." Rainstar began, his gaze sweeping across the cats in front of him. "Finally, he saw Silverwater and Crowtail, disagreeing on what they should do with their kit. Finally, they came up with a solution."

Dawnpaw really didn't want to hear anymore. And for some reason, things suddenly started to add up to her.

"Crowtail brought the kit into the clan, and can you guess who their kit is?" His icy blue eyes landed on Dawnpaw, and it seemed to pierce her soul. "Dawnpaw is Silverwater and Crowtail's kit!"

Shocked murmurs and gasps went throughout the clan. Crowtail just looked away, probably embarrassed to be called out for something like this and to ruin his reputation. But Silverwater kept her head held high, and she stared at Rainstar.

Dawnpaw was too shocked to bother being affected by the many stares she was getting. She knew she had recognized Silverwater and Crowtail's voices. She just wished she didn't have to live her whole life living a lie.

Rainstar yowled to silence the clan, lifting his tail up to continue talking. "These two cats must be punished!"

Silverwater finally stood up, looking from Crowtail to Rainstar. "Please, Rainstar. Don't punish Crowtail for this! He is a loyal warrior, and it would be a great loss for RiverClan if something were to happen to him."

Rainstar narrowed his eyes, then looked at his deputy. "What do you think, Blizzardstorm?"

Blizzardstorm sighed, looking back up at his leader. "I think Silverwater has a point. Crowtail has proved his loyalty to the clan many times. He even came up with a plan to show ShadowClan that we won't put up with them."

Rainstar nodded slowly. "Yes, very well. Silverwater will be the only one getting punished today."

Dawnpaw saw Crowtail flash Silverwater a look of worry, but he also seemed grateful for what she did for him.

"What's my punishment, Rainstar?" Silverwater asked calmly.

Rainstar thought for a moment before answering. "You will no longer be allowed to be RiverClan's medicine cat!"

"That's hardly fair Rainstar!" Silverwater's sister, Hollyclaw, burst out.

"And why not?" Rainstar demanded. "Are you speaking against my orders?"

"This isn't Silverwater's fault! It's Crowtail's!" She spat, lashing her tail. "Just because he's a warrior doesn't mean that just Silverwater deserves the punishment. Besides, who's going to train Dawnpaw?"

"Dawnpaw is more than ready to become a full medicine cat." Rainstar growled. "She doesn't need Silverwater. And if I remember correctly, you're just a warrior, and I'm the clan leader. So whatever I say is clan law, keep your mouth shut before I punish you too."

Hollyclaw growled but didn't dare talk back. She just turned her head to glare at Crowtail.

"Anyone else have any objections?" Rainstar demanded.

"I-I don't think I'm ready to be a full medicine cat!" Dawnpaw blurted out, quickly shutting her mouth.

Rainstar narrowed his eyes. "Yes you are, unless you haven't been really training the whole time?"

Dawnpaw looked down. Everything was happening so quickly. She found out who her real parents were and she was a clanborn cat after all. On top of that, Rainstar wants her to become a full medicine cat!

"Well?" Rainstar continued. "If you know how to be a medicine cat,

then we can have the naming ceremony right now."

Dawnpaw gulped. "I-If you say so, Rainstar."

Silverwater looked at her daughter with sympathy. "She is ready to become a full medicine cat, I know she is."

"I didn't ask *you* if she was ready or not." Rainstar growled, flicking his tail. "Dawnpaw, step forward."

Dawnpaw took a step towards the Highrock, feeling the many stares of her clanmates.

She glanced from Silverwater to Crowtail then back to Rainstar, feeling a little more confident.

Rainstar raised his head to the sky. "StarClan, I call upon you today to look down at this medicine cat apprentice. She has worked hard to understand the ways to be a medicine cat." He looked back down at Dawnpaw. "Dawnpaw, from this moment on until you join StarClan, you will be known as Dawnwind."

The clan cheered Dawnwind's new name, but the aura throughout her clanmates didn't make her feel excited or happy, it made her feel extremely uncomfortable.

She glanced at Silverwater, who was shouting her name but her expression said it all. The look of hatred and rage in her face made Dawnwind feel even worse.

Why did this have to happen? None of us deserve this pain...

Chapter 4

A few weeks have passed since Dawnwind became a full medicine cat, and a few weeks since she found out who her real parents were. Silverwater and Crowtail were treated like outsiders. Crowtail was still honored, but since he was always around Silverwater it was hard for anyone to trust him.
In the weeks that went by, Rainstar had led a patrol to ambush ShadowClan. Many warrior were wounded, but the ShadowClan cats were forced to retreat.
At least they have left us alone since. Dawnwind thought, sorting through a herb pile. She felt slightly proud that her father was the cat to come up with that plan. *If I should even call Crowtail my father... things have been awkward between us ever since their secret came out.*
Silverwater would sometimes speak to Dawnwind, but through Crowtail, considering that Rainstar forbid her to talk to Dawnwind.
Dawnwind shook her head. *I need to stop thinking about this. I have a huge responsibility now that I'm RiverClan's only medicine cat.*
"I hope I'm not disturbing you."
Dawnwind slightly jumped and turned around to see Blizzardstorm standing at the den entrance.
"No, not at all." Dawnwind answered. "What do you need?"
Blizzardstorm sighed. "I'm sorry that things went the way they did... I thought that the clan deserved to know the truth."
Dawnwind growled. "So you had to make my parents and I suffer?"
"I really didn't know that something like this would happen-"
"It's *Rainstar!*" Dawnwind interrupted. "What else do you expect from him?"
Blizzardstorm shook his head. "I came here to apologize, not argue. It's up to you to accept it or not."
When Dawnwind didn't answer, he turned around and left the den.
Why should I forgive him when he's caused me so much pain?

Silverwater held the fish she was carrying by its tail. She was

bringing the piece of fresh kill to Rainstar, but what he wouldn't know was that there were deathberries inside.
He must pay for what he's done to me and my family. She thought with a growl. *Thinking he can keep me apart from my daughter forever!*
Silverwater entered camp, and a warrior snorted as he saw her.
"I didn't know you could catch your own prey." He growled.
Silverwater lashed her tail. "There's many things you don't know about me."
"Whatever, *traitor*." He spat, walking away.
Silverwater unsheathed her claws, then sheathed them again, closing her eyes and taking a deep breath. *There's no time for me to waste on him... right now I need to focus on giving this prey to Rainstar.*
"Are you sure this is the right thing to do, my love?" Crowtail whispered from behind her.
She purred, opening her eyes to meet his gaze. "Of course, you trust me, right?"
"Yes, I do." Crowtail mewed, licking her ear. "When Rainstar is gone, we can all be together again."
Silverwater nodded, feeling more determined. She smiled. "Now, it's time for me to deliver a very special gift to our *wonderful* leader."
She walked away from him, going straight for Rainstar's den.
When she entered, Rainstar glared up at her.
"What do you want?" He demanded, getting to his paws.
Silverwater set down the fish, nudging it closer to him. "Rainstar, I want to make up for the things I have done in the past... I want you to be able to trust me again."
Rainstar stared at her for a few moments. "It will take a very long time for that to happen..."
"So we can take it slow." Silverwater mewed. She looked at the fish. "Let's start by this gift. I caught it on my own, just for you."
Rainstar slowly nodded approvingly. "I've got to say, you've got some skill in hunting if you were able to catch a fish this big."
"So you'll eat it?" Silverwater said, her eyes lightly up.
"Yes, thank you." Rainstar meowed. They sat there in silence for a few moments before he spoke again. "You can go now."
Silverwater shook her head. "I would like to watch... to make sure that you like the prey."
And to watch you suffer... She thought, but still kept the sweet cat act on.
"Fine." Rainstar bent down and took a bite of the prey. He finished

it not too long after, licking his lips. "It tasted strange... almost bitter."
"That's the deathberries." Silverwater snarled, showing her teeth.
Rainstar's eyes widened as he began to cough. "I thought-" He coughed again. "-I thought you wanted to show me you could be trusted again!"
Silverwater pushed him down, and he immediately collapsed. "Of course not, you *fool*. How does the pain feel, be honest with me."
Rainstar's claws were digging into the floor of the den, and he was hissing with obvious pain. "How... How could you? You'll be punished for this!"
Silverwater put her muzzle close to his ear, purring. "Any punishment in the entire world is worth watching you suffer like this."
Rainstar stopped struggling, and Silverwater could no longer hear him breathing. His blue eyes were now glazed over.
Silverwater just laughed, pure joy swelling up inside her. Killing him made her realize that she enjoyed doing it, and if she had the chance to do it again, she would.

Chapter 5

The clan sat vigil for Rainstar the night Blizzardstorm found him dead in his den. They soon found out the cause was deathberries. Dawnwind's fur was soaked from the rain as she watched her clanmates from the corner of the camp.
Blizzardstorm was speaking out to the RiverClan cats, but Dawnwind didn't bother to listen.
"We can finally become a family now." Silverwater stepped out from behind her, purring. "Now that he's gone."
Dawnwind shifted her paws. "You did this, didn't you?"
Silverwater growled. "Yes. And you should thank me for it."
"You shouldn't have killed him..." Dawnwind mewed, taking a step away from her.
"It was the right thing to do. And I want you to follow in my footsteps." Silverwater said, smiling.
"W-What do you mean?" Dawnwind questioned, feeling her fur stand on end.
"When you and Blizzardstorm go to the Moonpool, I want you to kill him." Silverwater told her. "Then when RiverClan has no cat to lead, Crowtail can be the one to step up. Then we can really all be together forever!"
"N-No!" Dawnwind stammered. "I won't do it!"
Silverwater sighed. "I thought you would say no. If you don't, then I'll do it myself, and another cat will have to die tonight. I'll be following you to make sure you do it."
Dawnwind held in her breath and turned around, racing away towards her clanmates. She didn't know what to do. Why was her mother suddenly acting like this?

Dawnwind led the way towards the Moonpool, Blizzardstorm following. They were almost there, and Dawnwind flinched with every step she took, knowing that someone would end up dying tonight.
"What's the matter, Dawnwind?" Blizzardstorm asked as they

approached the Moonpool. "You seem very... disturbed."
Dawnwind looked at him, her eyes wide. She didn't know what to say to him. "Listen, Blizzardstorm... I may not fully forgive you for what you did, but I know you don't deserve to die for it." And even louder she said; "*I won't kill you for it!*"
Blizzardstorm looked confused, but Silverwater suddenly sprang out from behind the warrior, pinning him down.
She shook her head, looking disappointed. "I thought you would do it, Dawnwind, I really did. But you have let me down..."
"You're crazy!" Dawnwind hissed. "You speak of wanting a normal family, but how can we be normal when you're a murderer!? I won't be part of this!"
Silverwater shrugged. "Fine. Then you'll watch him die, along with another cat of my choosing tonight. How about Trouthook's mate, Blossomleaf right?"
Blizzardstorm struggled beneath her. "No!"
Dawnwind's eyes widened with shock. "You... you wouldn't! She's expecting kits!"
"That's too bad... I guess the only way to save her is to kill this cat!" Silverwater growled.
Dawnwind crouched down, showing her teeth. "No! I won't let you manipulate me!"
Suddenly, Dawnwind sprang forward, knocking Silverwater off of Blizzardstorm.
"What are you doing!?" Silverwater spat. "I don't want to have to kill you too!"
Dawnwind jumped back, standing next to Blizzardstorm.
"Then I guess you'll just have to if you want to kill him or Blossomleaf!" She growled. It felt wrong to have to fight her own mother, but she knew she had to put an end to this tragedy somehow.
Blizzardstorm and Dawnwind worked together to drive Silverwater back. Dawnwind's strikes weren't as powerful as Blizzardstorm's, but that was just because she barely had any battle training.
Blizzardstorm was the first to lunge forward. He didn't even hesitate when she was pushed back, with her neck exposed, to sink his teeth in her throat.
Dawnwind stared as her mother almost instantly died, mixed emotions inside her. Blood flowed from the wound, staining both cat's paws red.

Blizzardstorm turned to look at Dawnwind, his eyes full of sympathy. "Dawnwind... I'm sorry this is how things ended... but you will always be honored for what you did to help me tonight..." Dawnwind couldn't answer. She had saved two cat's lives tonight, but she also had something taken away from her forever. But for some reason, this didn't feel like the end.

Crowtail sat at the edge of the river, his head down low. Dawnwind and Blizzardstorm returned from the Moonpool. Blizzardstorm didn't receive his nine lives yet because instead, they brought back Silverwater's body. It was almost midnight now, and Crowtail was in too much pain to be tired.
The rain still came down heavily, and his paws were covered in mud. To make things worse for the clan, Blossomleaf just had to give birth to her kits while Dawnwind was away, and Blossomleaf and her kits died. But only one survived somehow, and Trouthook named the pale gray little she-cat Breezekit.
Trouthook was mourning just like Crowtail was, but unlike Trouthook, Crowtail could have prevented Silverwater's death.
"If only I had stopped her from killing Rainstar!" He yowled.
"That's exactly what I said."
Crowtail looked at Hollyclaw as she stalked closer to him, her claws unsheathed.
"Hollyclaw... what are you doing here?" Crowtail questioned. "You should be back at camp sitting vigil for Silverwater."
"So should you, if you truly cared about her." Hollyclaw growled. "And I wouldn't be able to rest anyways until I knew that the cat who caused all of this was dead!"
"What are you talking about?" Crowtail said.
"Don't worry, no one will even know we were here, and no one will find your body." Hollyclaw sneered. Before Crowtail could piece together what she meant, Hollyclaw quickly shoved him forward, towards the river.
Crowtail would have been able to regain his balance, but because of the mud, he slipped and fell into the river.
He plunged into the cold water, trying to swim to the surface, but the water kept dragging him down.
"*Help!*" He tried to scream, but only more water filled his lungs.
He began to choke, and heard a voice as he felt his life slowly fading.

Some may have survived today, but many other lives have been lost, just like I had promised... if only it wasn't you, my love.